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10/524,030	02/09/2005	Hiroshi Taniuchi	03500.017534	4853
5514 7590 07/26/2007 FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			EXAMINER ZIMMERMANN, JOHN P	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/524,030

Applicant(s)

TANIUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

John P. Zimmermann

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2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 February 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09 Feb 2005, 22 Jun 06.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. **Claims 14-16** (Groups II & III) are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 11 July 2007.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, **claims 1-13** in the reply filed on 11 July 2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the three groups are closely related and would not require separate fields of search. This is not found persuasive because Groups I, II & III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features and no argument with corresponding submittal of evidence was made showing that the inventions are not patentably distinct.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Priority

3. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: #6 (Figure 1). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Many misspelled words and typos including "DESCLOSURE" (Specification – Page 9, Line 22) and "Beading or and bleeding" (Specification – Page 8, Line 1).

Appropriate correction is required.

6. 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, requires the specification to be written in "full, clear, concise, and exact terms." The specification is replete with terms which are not clear, concise and exact. The specification should be revised carefully in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Examples of some unclear, inexact or verbose terms used in the specification

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are: "...poor in ink-absorbing ability has not been yet realized without being affected by the ink absorbency..." (Specification – Page 9 Lines 13 and following), "FIGS. 1 and 2 typically illustrate conceptual image forming apparatus..." (Specification – Page 15, Lines 5-6, and "the kinds of usable recording media are scarcely limited, and a different image can be outputted..." (Specification – Page 19, Lines 23 and following).

7. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

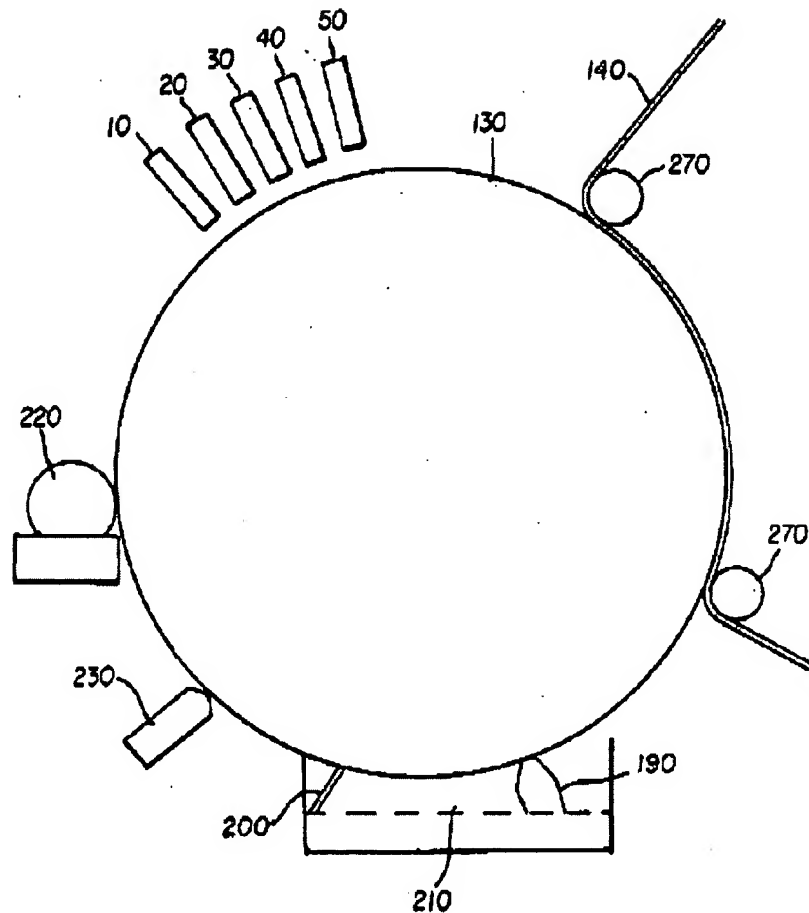
10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various

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claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. **Claims 1-5, 8-10, & 12-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Jeanmaire et al.**, (US 6,109,746 A) in view of **Wen**, (US 6,234,625 B1) and in further view of **Holloway et al.**, (US 6,398,357 B1).

a. As related to independent **claim 1**, Jeanmaire et al. teach an image forming process (Jeanmaire et al. – Abstract) including applying a first material [i.e. ink precursor] for improving the wettability of the surface of an intermediate transfer medium to the intermediate transfer medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 8-12; Column 3, Lines 37-40 and Figure 3, Reference #10, #20, #30, #40 & #50, shown below) and applying a second material [i.e. agent] for lowering the flowability of an ink to the intermediate transfer medium to which the first material has been applied (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 3, Lines 5-10 and Figure 3, Reference #220, shown below).

**FIG. 3**

b. Continuing with **claim 1**, Jeanmaire et al. teach applying the ink to the intermediate transfer medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 63-65; Column 3, Lines 19-20 and Figure 4, Reference #10, #20, #30, #40, & #50, shown below), to which the first material and second material have been applied, from an ink-jet recording head to form an image of the ink on the intermediate transfer medium, and transferring the ink image formed to a recording medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 64-65 and Figure 3, Reference #140, shown above).

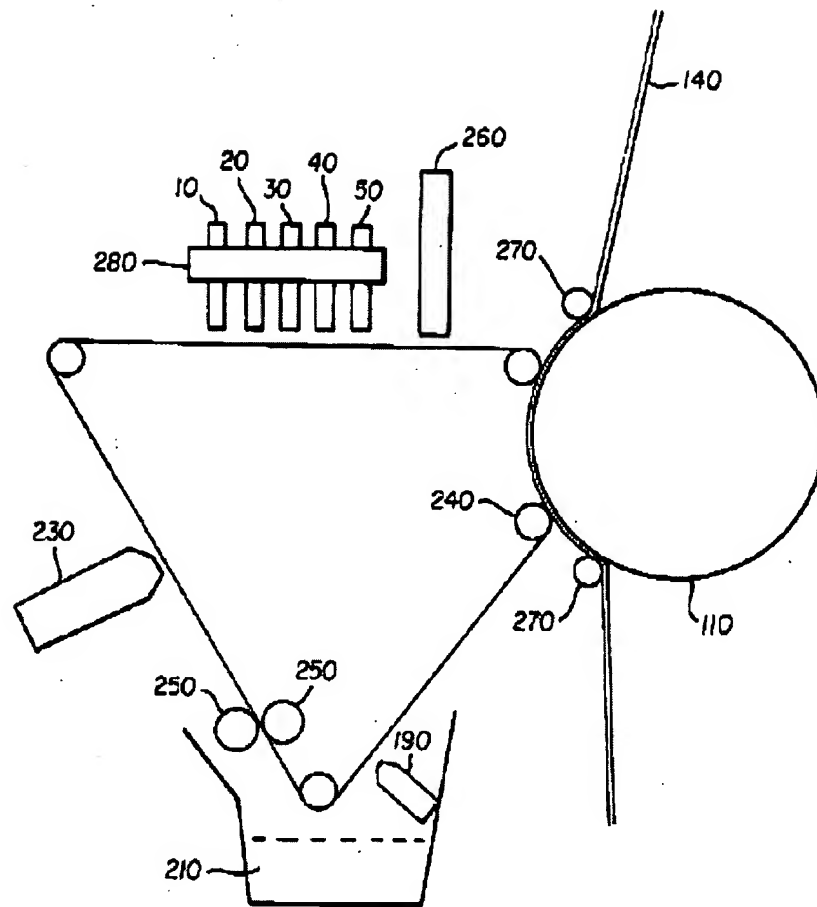


FIG. 4

c. Continuing with **claim 1**, while Jeanmaire et al. teach the application of the various materials to include fluids in a variety of order, Wen *specifically* teaches treating the receiver before placing the ink on the receiver while understanding the receiver could be treated after the ink has been formed on the receiver (Wen – Detailed Description – Column 4, Lines 11-15 and Figure 3, Reference #120, shown below). Additionally, while Jeanmaire et al. teach a variety of materials to be applied, it is well understood in the art, and exemplified by Holloway et al. that the materials required to produce a

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quality image using an intermediate transfer surface include wetting agents applied to the surface (Holloway et al. – Title; Abstract – Lines 2-4; Summary, Column 1, Lines 35-39 and Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 19-20).

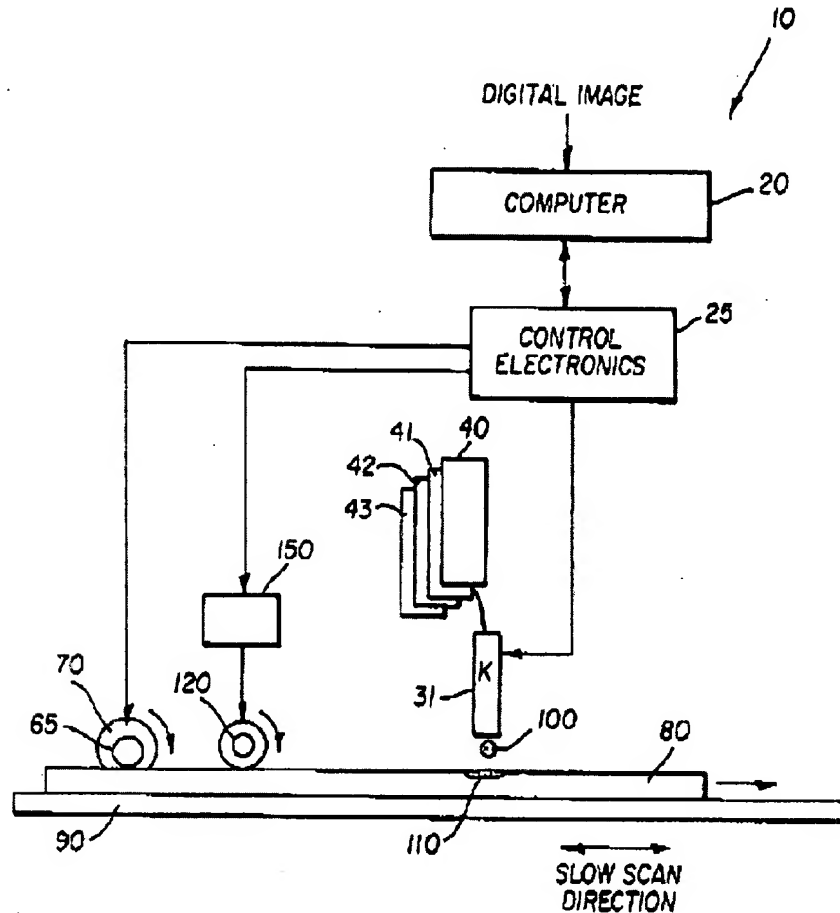


FIG. 3

d. As related to independent claim 2, Jeanmaire et al. teach an image forming process (Jeanmaire et al. – Abstract) for transferring an image of an ink formed on an intermediate transfer medium having a non-absorbent surface [i.e. stainless steel or chromium] to a recording medium (Jeanmaire et al. Detailed Description, Column 2,

Lines 49-52), thereby forming the ink image on the recording medium, which comprises the steps of: applying a first material for enhancing the surface energy of the surface of the intermediate transfer medium to the intermediate transfer medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 8-12; Column 3, Lines 37-40 and Figure 3, Reference #10, #20, #30, #40 & #50, shown below), applying a second material [i.e. ink precursor or reactant] for aggregating a coloring material in the ink to the intermediate transfer medium to which the first material has been applied (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 8-12; Column 3, Lines 37-48 and Figure 3, Reference #10, #20, #30, #40 & #50, shown below).

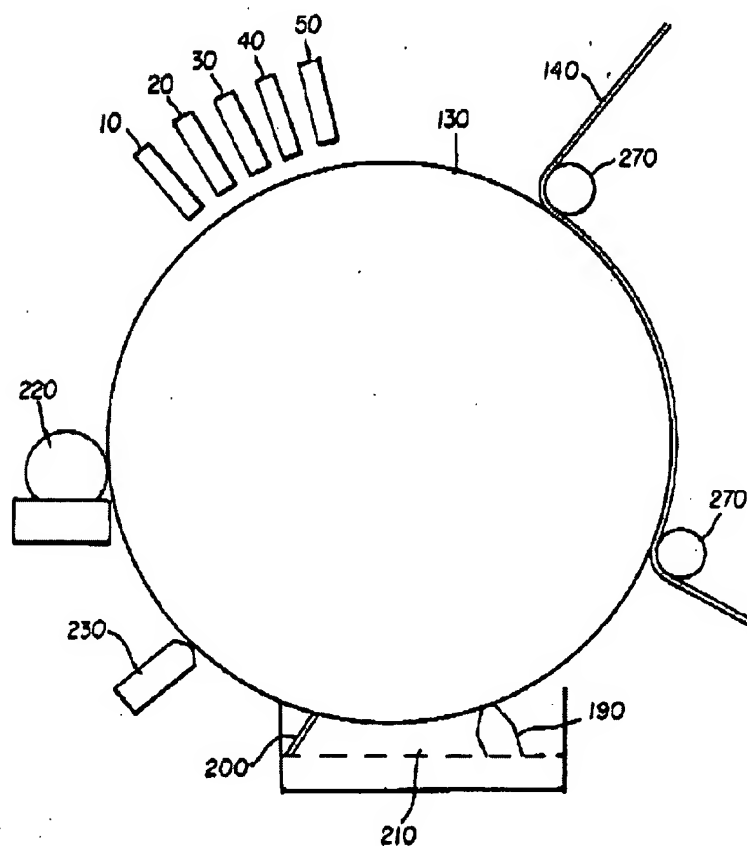


FIG. 3

e. Continuing with **claim 2**, Jeanmaire et al. teach applying the ink to the intermediate transfer medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 63-65; Column 3, Lines 19-20 and Figure 4, Reference #10, #20, #30, #40, & #50, shown previously), to which the first material and second material have been applied, from an ink-jet recording head to form the ink image on the intermediate transfer medium, and transferring the ink image formed to the recording medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 64-65 and Figure 3, Reference #140, shown above). Additionally, while Jeanmaire et al. teach the application of the various materials to include fluids in a variety of order, Wen *specifically* teaches treating the receiver before placing the ink on the receiver while understanding the receiver could be treated after the ink has been formed on the receiver (Wen – Detailed Description – Column 4, Lines 11-15 and Figure 3, Reference #120, shown below). Additionally, while Jeanmaire et al. teach a variety of materials to be applied, it is well understood in the art, and exemplified by Holloway et al. that the materials required to produce a quality image and increase the transfer efficiency using an intermediate transfer surface, include surface energy enhancers and flocculating agents applied to the intermediate surface (Holloway et al. – Background, Column 1, Lines 25-27; Summary, Column 1, Lines 50-54 and Detailed Description, Column 4, Lines 23-25 & Column 5, Lines 11-13).

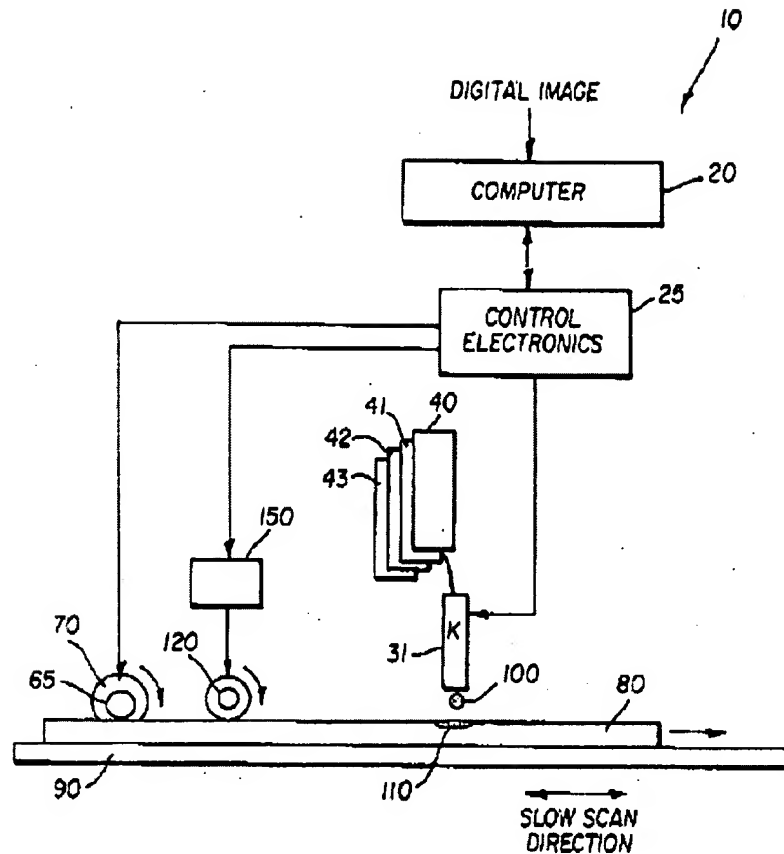


FIG. 3

f. As related to independent **claim 3**, Jeanmaire et al. teach an image forming process (Jeanmaire et al. – Abstract) including applying a first liquid [i.e. ink precursor] containing a surfactant [i.e. wetting agent] (Dictionary.com – Definition of surfactant) to an intermediate transfer medium having a surface containing at least one material of a fluororubber and a silicone rubber [i.e. elastomeric] medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 8-12; Column 3, Lines 10-13 & 37-40; Figure 3, Reference #10, #20, #30, #40 & #50 and Figure 4, Reference Arrow, both shown below), applying a second liquid [i.e. ink precursor or reactant] for aggregating a coloring material in an ink

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to the intermediate transfer medium to which the first liquid has been applied (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 8-12; Column 3, Lines 37-48 and Figure 3, Reference #10, #20, #30, #40 & #50, shown below).

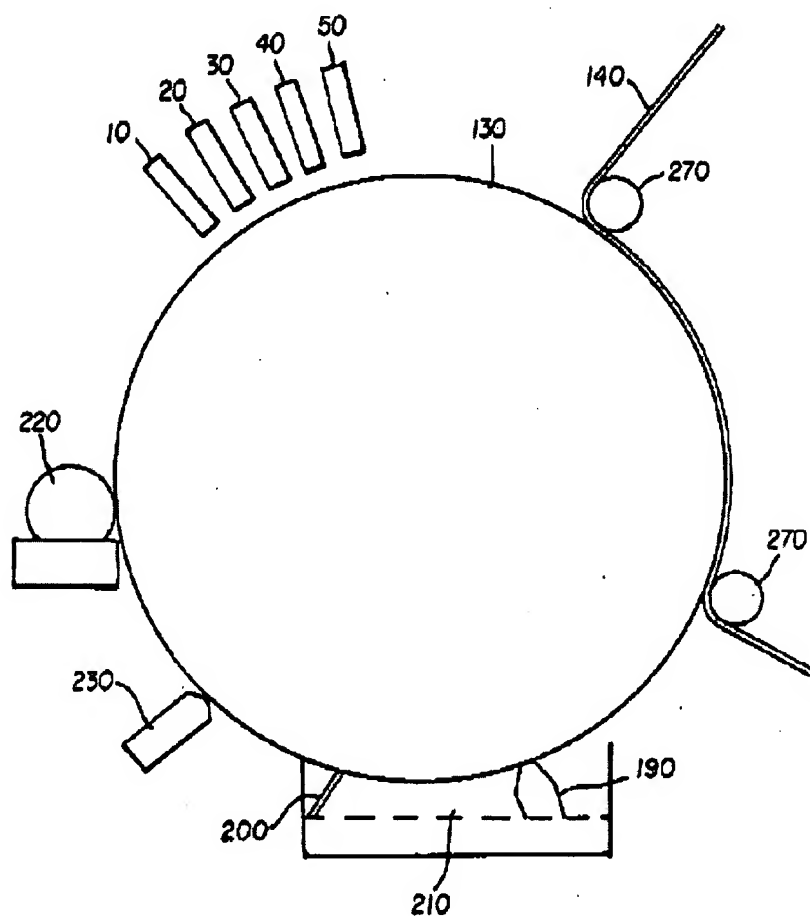


FIG. 3

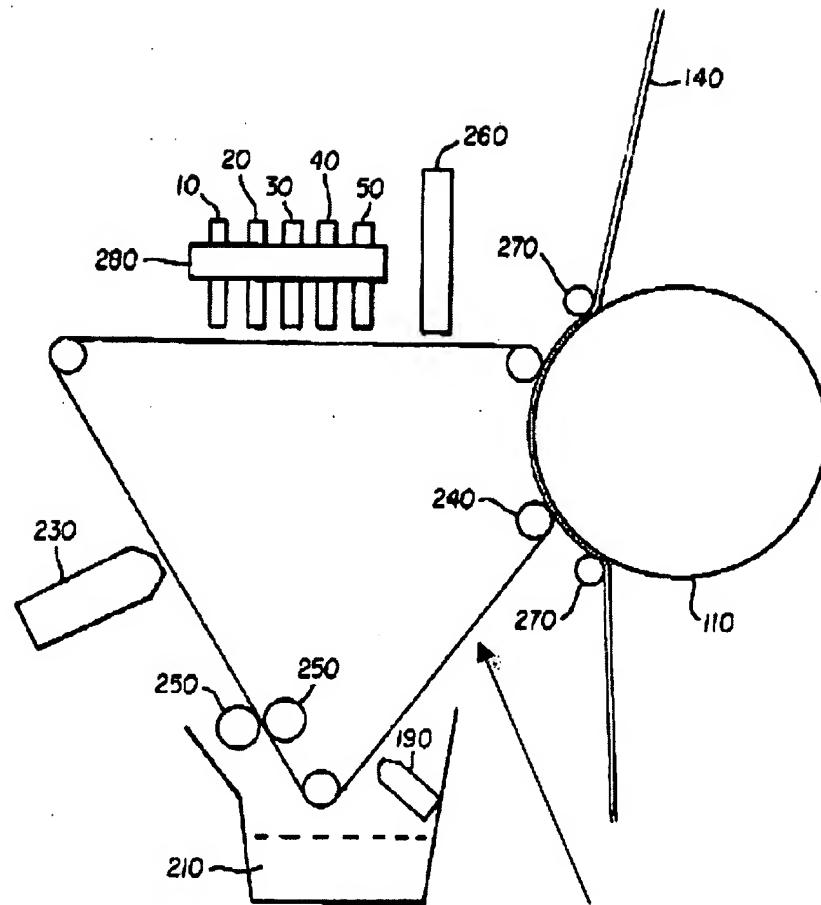


FIG. 4

g. Continuing with **claim 3**, Jeanmaire et al. teach applying the ink to the intermediate transfer medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 63-65; Column 3, Lines 19-20 and Figure 4, Reference #10, #20, #30, #40, & #50, shown above), to which the first liquid and second liquid have been applied, from an ink-jet recording head to form an image of the ink on the intermediate transfer medium, and transferring the ink image formed to the recording medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 64-65 and Figure 3, Reference #140, shown above).

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Additionally, while Jeanmaire et al. teach the application of the various materials to include fluids in a variety of order, Wen *specifically* teaches treating the receiver before placing the ink on the receiver while understanding the receiver could be treated after the ink has been formed on the receiver (Wen – Detailed Description – Column 4, Lines 11-15 and Figure 3, Reference #120, shown below).

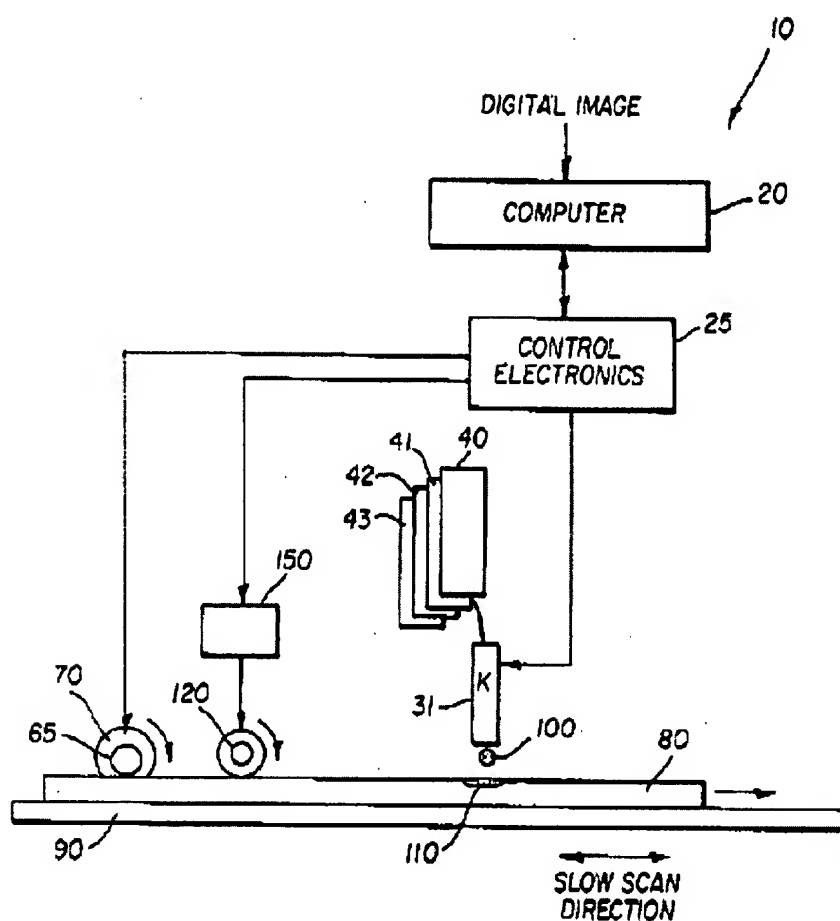


FIG. 3

h. Continuing with **claim 3**, while Jeanmaire et al. teach a variety of materials to be applied, it is well understood in the art, and exemplified by Holloway et al. that the

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materials required to produce a quality image and increase the transfer efficiency using an intermediate transfer surface, include wetting agents [i.e. surfactants] (Holloway et al. – Title; Abstract – Lines 2-4; Summary, Column 1, Lines 35-39 and Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 19-20) and aggregating agents applied to the intermediate surface (Holloway et al. – Background, Column 1, Lines 25-27; Summary, Column 1, Lines 50-54 and Detailed Description, Column 4, Lines 23-25 & Column 5, Lines 11-13). Finally, while Jeanmaire et al. teach the transfer medium surface constructed of materials well known in the printing industry, Holloway et al. *specifically* teach the surface of the transfer medium being any type of rubber (Holloway et al. – Detailed Description, Column 3, Lines 61-62 & Column 4, Lines 5-11) and further specifies silicone (Holloway et al. – Detailed Description, Column 5, Lines 57-59 & Column 6, Lines 15-18).

Given the same field of endeavor, specifically a method for forming an image using various treatments and surfaces, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to combine the method for printing information by collecting amounts of different materials on an intermediate transfer medium and then to the image receiver as taught by Jeanmaire et al. with the specific materials in the specific order of treating the medium prior to application of the ink using specific materials as taught by Wen and further exemplified by Holloway et al. in an effort to enhance the image structure (Wen – Summary, Column 1, Lines 32-33) and provide an intermediate transfer type printing method with improved transfer efficiency and optical density thereby forming a “good image” (Holloway et al. – Background, Column 1, Lines 25-33 and Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 19-20).

- i. As related to dependent **claim 4**, the previous combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied to **claims 1 & 2**, additionally, Holloway et

al. teach the surface of the intermediate transfer medium being any type of rubber

(Holloway et al. – Detailed Description, Column 3, Lines 61-62 & Column 4, Lines 5-11)

and further specifies silicone (Holloway et al. – Detailed Description, Column 5, Lines 57-59 & Column 6, Lines 15-18).

j. As related to dependent **claim 5**, the previous combination of Jeanmaire et al.,

Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied to **claims 1 & 2**, additionally, Holloway et

al. teach the surface of the intermediate transfer medium having a rubber hardness

ranging from 10-100 (Holloway et al. – Examples, Column 5, Lines 49-51 and

<http://www.americanurethane.com/adiprene.htm> - American Urethane physical properties of ADIPRENE L42).

k. As related to dependent **claim 8** and further dependent **claim 10**, the previous

combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied to **claims 1**

& 2, additionally, Jeanmaire et al. teach the second material is a liquid containing a metal

ion (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 3, Lines 37-52) while Holloway et

al. teach the second material contains a surfactant (Holloway et al. – Detailed

Description, Column 2, Lines 55-57).

l. As related to dependent **claim 9**, the previous combination of Jeanmaire et al.,

Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied to **claims 1 & 2**, additionally, Jeanmaire et

al. teach a position to which the second material is applied is changed according to an

image to be formed (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 2, 59-65 and Figure

3, Reference #10, shown below).

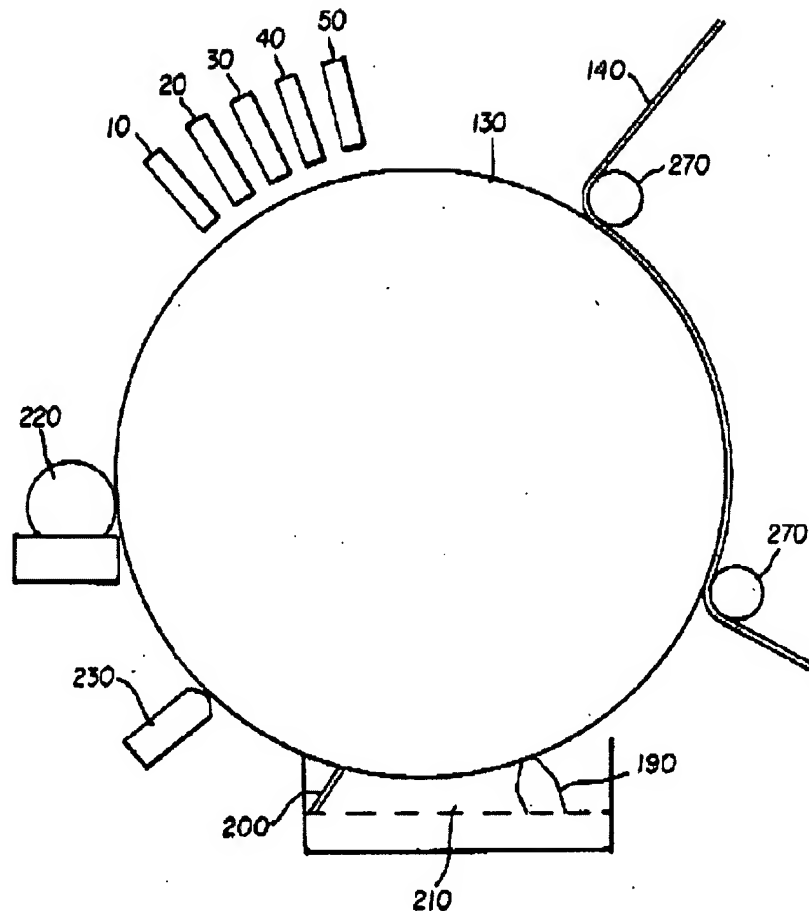


FIG. 3

m. As related to dependent **claim 12**, the previous combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied to **claims 1 & 2**, additionally, Jeanmaire et al. teach a step of facilitating the removal of a solvent contained in the ink image formed on the intermediate transfer medium (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 3, Lines 1-5 and Figure 3, Reference #190, #200, #210, & #230, shown above).

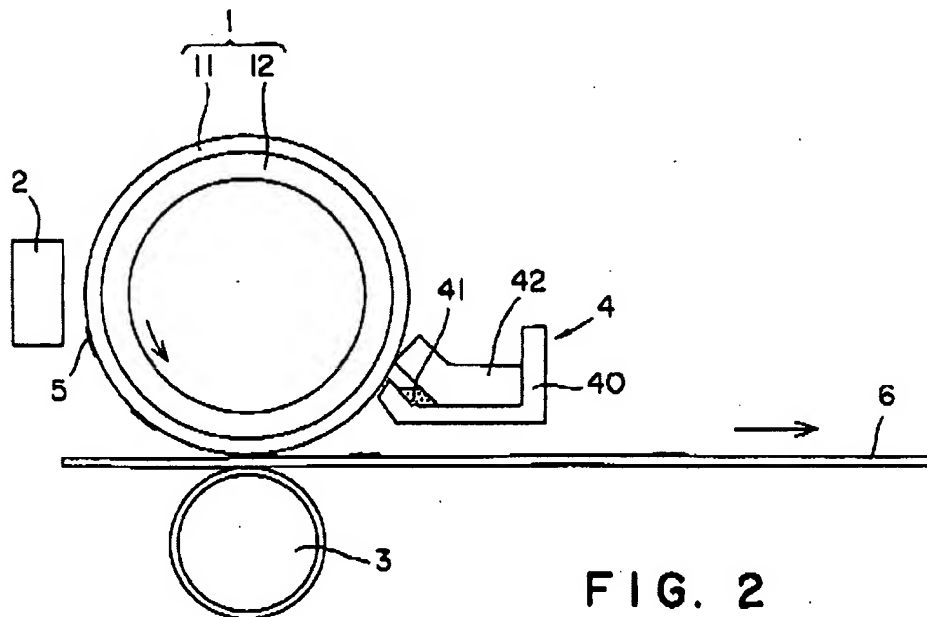
n. As related to dependent **claim 13**, the previous combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied to **claims 1 & 2**, additionally, Jeanmaire et al. teach at least one of the first material and second material is applied by using a head of

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an ink-jet system (Jeanmaire et al. – Detailed Description, Column 3, Lines 38-40 and Figure 3, Reference #10 & #20, shown above).

12. **Claim 6** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Jeanmaire et al.**, (US 6,109,746 A) **Wen**, (US 6,234,625 B1) and **Holloway et al.**, (US 6,398,357 B1) as applied to **claims 1 & 2** above, and further in view of **Komatsu et al.**, (US 6,059,407 A).

The previous combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied above, but *does not* specifically teach the first material is a liquid containing a surfactant. *However*, Komatsu et al. teach a method for ink jet recording using an intermediate transfer medium wherein the first material applied to the intermediate transfer medium is a liquid containing a surfactant (Komatsu et al. – Title; Abstract; Brief Description of Drawings, Column 2, Lines 42-44 and Figure 2, Reference #1 & #41, shown below).



Given the same field of endeavor, specifically a method for forming an image using various treatments and surfaces, to include an intermediate transfer medium, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to combine the method for printing information on an intermediate transfer medium and then to the image receiver as taught by the combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. with the method of applying a first material to the intermediate transfer medium containing a surfactant as taught by Komatsu et al., in an effort to enhance the image structure (Wen – Summary, Column 1, Lines 32-33); provide an intermediate transfer type printing method with improved transfer efficiency and optical density thereby forming a “good image” (Holloway et al. – Background, Column 1, Lines 25-33 and Detailed Description, Column 2, Lines 19-20), and provide an intermediate transfer ink jet recording method which enables a print to be obtained with high efficiency (Komatsu et al. – Summary, Column 2, Lines 15-17).

13. **Claim 7** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Jeanmaire et al.**, (US 6,109,746 A) **Wen**, (US 6,234,625 B1) and **Holloway et al.**, (US 6,398,357 B1) as applied to **claims 1 & 2** above, and further in view of **Asano et al.**, (US 6,318,853 B1).

The previous combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied above, but *does not* specifically teach a position to which the first material is applied is changed according to an image to be formed. *However*, Asano et al. teach an image forming method using an intermediate medium and a first material jet head provided upstream of the other jet heads which ejects the material on the intermediate medium where an image is to be formed (Asano et al. – Title; Summary, Column 3, Lines 13-15 and Figure 1, Reference #30, shown below).

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transferred high quality images (Asano et al. – Abstract; Background, Column 2, Lines 64-66 and Summary, Column 3, Lines 1-3).

14. **Claim 11** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Jeanmaire et al.**, (US 6,109,746 A) **Wen**, (US 6,234,625 B1) and **Holloway et al.**, (US 6,398,357 B1) as applied to **claims 1 & 2** above, and further in view of **Tanikawa et al.**, (US 6,623,816 B1).

The previous combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. remains as applied above, but *does not* specifically teach at least one of the first material, second material, and ink contains a crosslinking agent. *However*, Tanikawa et al. teach a recording method using an intermediate transfer medium wherein an intermediate transfer element is placed on the surface of the intermediate transfer medium that which contains crosslinking polymers or other suitable materials (Tanikawa et al. – Title; Abstract and Detailed Description, Column 8, Lines 38-57). Given the same field of endeavor, specifically a method for forming an image using various treatments and surfaces, to include an intermediate transfer medium, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to combine the method for printing information on an intermediate transfer medium and then to the image receiver as taught by the combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al. with the ink jet recording method incorporating a material that contains a crosslinking agent as taught by Tanikawa et al., in an effort to enhance the image structure (Wen – Summary, Column 1, Lines 32-33), provide an intermediate transfer type printing method with improved transfer efficiency and optical density thereby forming a “good image” (Holloway et al. – Background, Column 1, Lines 25-33 and Detailed Description,

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Column 2, Lines 19-20), and produce a high quality image without any blurring, mixing or penetration of the ink liquid (Tanikawa et al. – Abstract and Background, Column 3, Lines 59-63).

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Koike et al. (US 4,725,849 A) teach an inkjet recording method where ink receiving material is applied, a filler may be dispersed in the ink-receiving material for improving ink absorption ability, ink is applied by ink-jet system. Bowers (US 5,858,514 A) teaches coating a non-paper substrate with an adherent base coat and a hydrophilic top coat, the top coat provides an ink receptive surface on which ink can be deposited. Castegnier (US 5,908,541 A) teaches a printing method with an endless belt with one side having a retaining surface adapted to releasably retain dots of coagulated colloid (i.e. ink particles). Inamoto (US 6,000,793 A) teaches an image forming process that includes ejecting a liquid ink containing disperse dye, applying aqueous coating fluid first layer, applying a resin to first layer to provide a second layer. Deily et al. (US 6,196,675 B1) teach a method for image fusing with secondary operation utilized to apply a supplemental coating to the transferred image. Takemoto (US 6,196,674 B1) teaches an ink jet recording methods using two liquids deposited by ink jet recording system. Beach et al. (US 6,709,096 B10) teach a method of printing using an intermediate medium with multiple layers applied. Bredt et al. (US 2004/0056378 A1) teach a printing method using an ink-jet printhead to deliver three materials including aqueous fluid. Nigam et al. (US

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2004/0202832 A1) teach a method for recording a first ink-receptive layer and a second layer on top of first layer receptive to ink. Hirai (US 2005/0007398 A1) teaches a method for fabricating a pattern with a first material disposing step and a second material disposing step. May et al. (US 6,932,469 B2) teach an imaging method using ink on an intermediate member, with two or more inks.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Zimmermann whose telephone number is 571-270-3049. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 7:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Luu can be reached on 571-272-7663. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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MATTHEW LUU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER